

Award Number: PIR-10-011Date: 3 / 17 / 2010

Note: The Energy Commission Project Managers Manual includes detailed instructions on how to complete this section, with examples of grants that are “Projects” and are not “Projects”. When the Project Manager is completing this section, if questions arise as to the appropriate answers to the questions below, please consult with the Energy Commission attorney assigned to review grants or loans for your division.

1. Is grant/loan considered a “Project” under CEQA? ☐ Yes (skip to question #2) ☒ No (continue with question #1)

Please complete the following: *[Public Resources Code (PRC) 21065 and 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) 15378]:*

Explain why the grant/loan is **not** considered a “Project”? The grant/loan will not cause a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment because grant/loan involves:

This grant involves equipment installed in a facility already permitted for the subject activity. The project will introduce and evaluate different naturally-occurring microbe strains in an isolated 100-gallon methane bioreactor and in a 1,000-gallon anaerobic digester located at a wastewater treatment facility that already contains a full-scale 600,000-gallon anaerobic digester. The useful methane from the small-scale digester will piped to the wastewater treatment facility's existing fuel cell during the tests, reducing facility's electricity demand during the course of the project.

The goal of this project is to develop techniques for introducing selected microbes into wastewater solids streams to improve waste-to-energy conversion by 30% or more.

2. If grant/loan is considered a “Project” under CEQA: (choose either **IS** or **IS NOT**)

☐ Grant/loan **IS** exempt:

☐ Statutory Exemption: (List PRC and/or CCR section numbers) _____

☐ Categorical Exemption: (List CCR section number) _____

☐ Common Sense Exemption. (14 CCR 15061(b)(3))

Explain reason why the grant/loan is exempt under the above section:

Please attach draft Notice of Exemption (NOE). Consult with the Energy Commission attorney assigned to your division for instructions on how to complete the NOE.

☐ Grant/loan **IS NOT** exempt. The Project Manager needs to consult with the Energy Commission attorney assigned to your division and the Siting Office regarding a possible initial study.